



The Daily Whip

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FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2003

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
9:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Five "One Minutes" Per Side	6:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE

Solis Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Child Tax Credit. The motion instructs conferees to insist on the Senate-passed Child Tax Credit Measure and is identical to the one that passed in the House on June 12th, 205-201. It also instructs Conferees to report out a conference report no later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

H.R. 2859 – Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act for FY03 (*Rep. Young (FL) - Appropriations Committee*) (*Subject to a Rule*).

H.R. 2861 - Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (*Rep. Walsh - Appropriations*) (*Subject to a Rule*).

Postponed Vote on the Bishop (NY) Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Child Tax Credit. The motion instructs conferees to insist on the Senate-passed Child Tax Credit Measure and is identical to the one that passed in the House on June 12th, 205-201. It also instructs Conferees to report out a conference report no later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

H.R. 2859 – Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act for FY03 (*Rep. Young (FL) - Appropriations Committee*) (*Subject to a Rule*). This bill provides \$983.6 million in FY03 for disaster relief activities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Rules Committee has recommended a modified closed rule that provides for one hour of general debate; waives all points of order against consideration of the bill; makes in order one amendment to be offered by Rep. Toomey or his designee; waives all points of order against the amendment; and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

- **Toomey Amendment (20 minutes)** - Directs the President to make a pro-rata reduction in unobligated FY03 discretionary funds to achieve savings of \$983.6 million, thus fully offsetting the Supplemental. Defense programs, programs within the Department of Homeland Security, and programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs are specifically excluded from reduction. Finally, in the event that the President determines that the reduction in FY03 for any particular program is excessive, he is authorized to make the reduction out of FY04 funds for that account.

H.R. 2861 - Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (*Rep. Walsh - Appropriations*) (*Subject to a Rule*). This bill provides \$126.9 billion for FY04 (\$90 billion for discretionary spending and \$32.7 billion for mandatory spending). Funds in this bill include: \$60.7 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs (\$27.2 billion for veterans medical care;



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and \$32.86 billion for the Veterans Benefit Administration); \$37 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (\$18.4 billion for Section 8 Housing Certificate Fund; \$3.6 billion for the Public Housing Operating Fund; and \$8.6 billion for Community Planning and Development); \$8 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency; \$15.54 billion for NASA; and \$5.64 billion for the National Science Foundation.

Unfortunately, this bill shortchanges health care for our nation's veterans. This bill is \$2.1 billion below the Republican House Budget Resolution and \$3.3 billion below the veterans' consensus budget.

The Rules Committee has recommended an open rule that provides for one hour of general debate; waives all points of order against consideration of the bill; except as specified in the resolution, waives points of order against provisions in the bill that fail to comply with the prohibition of unauthorized appropriations or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill; and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Germane amendments will be considered under the five-minute rule.

However, the Rule did not make in order important amendments including: an amendment by Reps. Smith (NJ) and Evans (IL) which would have increased the funding for veterans' health care to \$1.8 billion to ensure that the VA is able to continue to treat all veterans currently enrolled; and an amendment by Rep. Edwards (TX) which would have added \$2.2 billion to VA medical care for both the priority 1-6 and priority 7-8 veterans. Therefore, **Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on the RULE for consideration of H.R. 2861.**

Daily Quote...

"President Bush showed his disdain for the working poor yesterday with his visit to a federal check processing center in Philadelphia from which the first batch of child tax credit checks will be mailed to middle-income families. To the 6.5 million families who aren't getting a check because their wages are too low, the photo op was an inauspicious reminder that the president recently signed a \$330 billion tax cut that left them out."

-Editorial Today, *Boston Globe*